

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 841

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 4967

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: RETURN OF EXILED CATALAN LEADER

REF: MADRID 4931

SUMMARY: CATALAN LEADER TARRADELLAS, PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE, WILL EXTEND HIS VISIT TO MADRID. OTHER CATALAN LEADERS CLOSE RANKS BEHIND HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. JOSEP TARRADELLAS, RECENTLY-RETURNED PRESIDENT-IN-EXILE OF THE FORMER CATALAN "GENERALITAT" (REGIONAL GOVERNMENT) MET WITH KING JUAN CARLOS FOR 45 MINUTES YESTERDAY. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS, HE;
--EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND GRATIFICATION AT THE KING'S DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF CATALAN AFFAIRS.
-- INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A NEW STATUTE OF AUTONOMY FOR CATALUNYA (RATHER THAN INSISTING A RETURN TO THE 1932 LAW).
--DID NOT DENY THAT HE MIGHT MEET AGAIN WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ OR THE KING, BEFORE RETURNING TO PARIS IN A FEW DAYS.

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2. HAVING MADE THE POINT THAT HE IS NO FIGUREHEAD, TARRADELLAS SEEMED DISPOSED TO CLOSE RANKS WITH OTHER CATALAN LEADERS. CONTRADICTING HIS EARLIER STATEMENT (REFTEL), HE DENIED THAT JORDI PUJOL (LEADER OF THE CENTER-LEFT CATALAN PDC) HAD INTERFERED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUAREZ LAST FALL. HE ALSO APPEARED SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH

CATALAN SOCIALIST CHIEF JOAN REVENTOS DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AFFIRMED THAT, "I WILL NOT MAKE ANY DECISION WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CATALAN PARTIES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS", AND DENIED ANY FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE CATALAN COMMUNISTS.

3. FOR HIS PART, REVENTOS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS BEING CARRIED OUT BY TARRADELLAS, AND INDICATED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW STATUTE OF AUTONOMY WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE, WHILE IN BARCELONA PUJOL CHARACTERIZED HIMSELF AS A "TARRADELLISTA" AND ALSO SUPPORTED THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT: SPECULATION HERE CENTERS ON POSSIBLE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERALITAT BY DECREE LAW (AS AN INTERIM MEASURE PENDING FURTHER REFORMS) BY MERGING THE FOUR EXISTING CATALAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES. THIS IS THE DEAL TARRADELLAS CLAIMS WAS NEARLY ACHIEVED LAST FALL. SUCH A BODY WOULD HAVE ONLY THE (VERY LIMITED) POWERS OF THE CURRENT ASSEMBLIES, BUT WOULD BE A USEFUL GESTURE, CERTAINLY WELCOME TO MOST CATALANS, AND WOULD PERMIT TARRADELLAS A TRIUMPHANT RETURN. MORE SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL AUTONOMY WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE NEW CONSTITUTION. SUAREZ MAY WELL CONSIDER AN INTERIM MEASURE USEFUL AND POLITICALLY CHEAP, AND AN AGREEMENT ON THESE LINES WOULD THEREFORE COME AS NO SURPRISE. STABLER

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Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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